Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

US Appln. 09/236,897

Atty. Docket: Q53086

a means for spotting a sample liquid and a reference liquid onto a second chemical

analysis element for measuring the activity of a specific ion contained in the sample liquid,

an incubator in which the first chemical analysis element spotted with the sample liquid

and the second chemical analysis element spotted with the sample liquid and the reference liquid

are placed and which holds the first and second chemical analysis elements at constant

temperatures,

a concentration measuring means which is provided to measure the concentration of the

specific component contained in the sample liquid by measuring the optical density of the color

formed by the coloring reaction of the sample liquid and a reagent on the first chemical analysis

element after incubation in the incubator,

an ionic activity measuring means which is provided to measure the ionic activity of the

specific ion contained in the sample liquid after incubation in the incubator,

a temperature control means which holds the first and second chemical analysis elements

at predetermined temperatures, and

a detector comprising a bar code reader for detecting the position of the chemical analysis

element in which the chemical analysis element is conveyed by reading a bar code provided on

each chemical analysis element.

2. A chemical analysis system as defined in Claim 1, further provided with a chemical

analysis element supply section which stores both the first and the second chemical analysis

elements, and a conveyor means for conveying the chemical analysis element in the chemical

analysis element supply section to the incubator.

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4. A chemical analysis system as defined in Claim 1 further provided with a diluting unit

which includes a sample liquid contained and dilutes the sample liquid in the container with

diluent.

5. (Amended) A chemical analysis system comprising

a means for spotting a sample liquid onto a first chemical analysis element for measuring

the concentration of a specific component contained in the sample liquid,

a means for spotting a sample liquid and a reference liquid onto a second chemical

analysis element for measuring the activity of a specific ion contained in the sample liquid,

an incubator in which the first chemical analysis element spotted with the sample liquid

and/or the second chemical analysis element spotted with the sample liquid and the reference

liquid are placed and which holds the first and/or second chemical analysis elements at constant

temperatures,

a concentration measuring means which is provided to measure the concentration of the

specific component contained in the sample liquid by measuring the optical density of the color

formed by the coloring reaction of the sample liquid and a reagent on the first chemical analysis

element after incubation in the incubator,

an ionic activity measuring means which is provided to measure the ionic activity of the

specific ion contained in the sample liquid after incubation in the incubator,

a temperature control means which holds the first chemical analysis element at a first

predetermined temperature suitable for measuring the optical density of the color formed by the

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coloring reaction and holds the second chemical analysis elements at a second predetermined

temperatures suitable for measuring ionic activity, and

a detector comprising a bar code reader for detecting the position of the chemical analysis

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element in which the chemical analysis element is conveyed by reading a bar code provided on

each chemical analysis element.

6. A chemical analysis system as defined in Claim 5 further provided with a chemical

analysis element supply section which stores both the first and second chemical analysis

elements, and a conveyor means for conveying the chemical analysis element in the chemical

analysis element supply section to the incubator.

8. A chemical analysis system as defined in Claim 5 further provided with a diluting unit

which includes a sample liquid container and dilutes the sample liquid in the container with

diluent.

9. (Twice Amended) A chemical analysis system, comprising:

a spotting mechanism operable to spot a sample liquid onto a first chemical analysis

element for measuring the concentration of a specific component contained in the sample liquid,

and operable to spot a sample liquid and a reference liquid onto a second chemical analysis

element for measuring the activity of a specific ion contained in the sample liquid;

an incubator in which the first chemical analysis element spotted with the sample liquid

and the second chemical analysis element spotted with the sample liquid and the reference liquid

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are placed and which holds the first and second chemical analysis elements at constant

temperatures;

a concentration measuring device operable to measure the concentration of the specific

component contained in the sample liquid by measuring the optical density of the color formed

by the coloring reaction of the sample liquid and a reagent on the first chemical analysis element

after incubation in the incubator;

an ionic activity measuring device operable to measure the ionic activity of the specific

ion contained in the sample liquid after incubation in the incubator;

a temperature control device which holds the first and second chemical analysis elements

at predetermined temperatures; and

a detector comprising a bar code reader for detecting the position of the chemical analysis

element in which the chemical analysis element is conveyed by reading a bar code provided on

each chemical analysis element.

10. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 1, further provided with a receiving

portion located in the incubator which stores a single chemical analysis element.

11. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 10, further provided with a plurality

of the receiving portions, which are located in the incubator, each for storing a chemical analysis

element wherein the incubator is capable of simultaneously maintaining different temperatures in

the different receiving portions.

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12. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 10, wherein the incubator is capable

of simultaneously maintaining different temperatures for the first chemical analysis element and

for the second chemical analysis element.

13. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 5, further provided with a receiving

portion located in the incubator which stores a single chemical analysis element.

14. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 13, further provided with a plurality

of the receiving portions, which are located in the incubator, each for storing a chemical analysis

element wherein the incubator is capable of simultaneously maintaining different temperatures in

the different receiving portions.

15. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 13, wherein the incubator is capable

of simultaneously maintaining different temperatures for the first chemical analysis element and

for the second chemical analysis element.

16. A chemical analysis system comprising

means for spotting a sample liquid onto a first chemical analysis element for measuring

the concentration of a specific component contained in the sample liquid,

means for spotting a sample liquid and a reference liquid onto a second chemical analysis

element for measuring the activity of a specific ion contained in the sample liquid,

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an incubator capable of simultaneously maintaining two different temperatures for

simultaneously holding the first chemical analysis element spotted with the sample liquid and the

second chemical analysis element spotted with the sample liquid and the reference liquid,

a concentration measuring means which is provided to measure the concentration of the

specific component contained in the sample liquid by measuring the optical density of the color

formed by the coloring reaction of the sample liquid and a reagent on the first chemical analysis

element after incubation in the incubator,

an ionic activity measuring means which is provided to measure the ionic activity of the

specific ion contained in the sample liquid after incubation in the incubator, and

a temperature control means which holds the first chemical analysis element at a first

predetermined temperature suitable for measuring the optical density of the color formed by the

coloring reaction and holds the second chemical analysis element at a second predetermined

temperature suitable for measuring the ionic activity.

17. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 16, further provided with a receiving

portion located in the incubator which stores a single chemical analysis element.

18. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 17, further provided with a plurality

of the receiving portions, which are located in the incubator, each for storing a chemical analysis

element wherein the incubator is capable of simultaneously maintaining different temperatures in

the different receiving portions.

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19. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 16, wherein the incubator is capable

of simultaneously maintaining the temperature of about 30 °C at the receiving portion for storing

the first chemical analysis element and the temperature of 37 °C at the receiving portion for the

second chemical analysis element.

20. A chemical analysis system as defined in claim 16, further provided with a detector

comprising a bar code reader for detecting the position of the chemical analysis element in which

the chemical analysis element is conveyed by reading a bar code provided on the back of each

chemical analysis element.